Forest Insect & Disease Management

REPORT NO. 80-3-1

AERIAL DETECTION SURVEY OF SOUTHERN PINE BEETLE
INFESTATIONS, CHATTAHOOCHEE NATIONAL FOREST, GEORGIA

LAND OWNERSHIP OR SURVEY AREA: Chattahoochee National Forest (Brasstown, Chattooga, Chestatee, Cohutta, Tallulah, and Toccoa Ranger Districts)

STATE: Georgia

AREA WITHIN SURVEY BOUNDARY: 1,640,915 acres

ACREAGE OF SUSCEPTIBLE HOST TYPE ON SURVEY AREA: 181,366 acres

DATE OF SURVEY: October 2, 1979

PERCENT COVERAGE: 50%

AIRCRAFT: Cessna 210

CREW: W.A. Carothers, B.I. Hammond, T.P. Russell

REPORT ISSUED BY: B.I. Hammond

REPORT ISSUED ON: October 11, 1979

SURVEY OBJECTIVES

To detect the presence of southern pine beetle activity on the Chattahoochee National Forest.

SURVEY RESULTS AND CONCLUSIONS

A total of 62 spots ranging in size from 1-50 trees per spot were detected on the eastern edge of the Chattahoochee National Forest. These spots were limited to two ranger districts. The Chattooga Ranger District contained 32 spots of red-topped pine trees. The remaining 30 spots were detected on the Tallulah Ranger District (Table 1).

Due to the high southern pine beetle population currently infesting the adjoining Sumter National Forest in South Carolina and private lands south of the Chattahoochee National Forest in Georgia, the spots detected on this survey are suspected to be caused by southern pine beetle.

The attached map indicates the location and size of the SPB spots detected. This map consists only of the eastern half of the Chattahoochee National Forest since no damage or mortality was detected on the western half.

The occurrence of southern pine beetle populations on forest lands adjacent to the Chattahoochee National Forest indicates a potential for a southern pine beetle outbreak on the Chattahoochee National Forest in 1980. It is recommended that a biological evaluation be conducted by the Asheville Field Office of Forest Insect and Disease Management.

Field surveillance by National Forest personnel should be continued to aid in the early detection of buildups of the southern pine beetle. Another aerial survey of the area will be conducted in the spring of 1980 by the Doraville Field Office to supplement national forest field surveillance activities.

For any additional information, contact:

FOREST INSECT AND DISEASE MANAGEMENT UNIT
USFS - SOUTHEASTERN AREA

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Doraville, GA 30340
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or

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Table 1: Number of spots and trees by Ranger District, Chattahoochee National Forest

	Infestation Size (#Trees)													
	1		2-5		6-10		11-20		21-50		50+		Total	
Ownership	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees	Spots	Trees
Brasstown RD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chattooga RD	2	2	10	41	8	77	7	120	2	55	1	50	32	297
Chestatee RD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cohutta RD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tallulah RD	2	2	13	59	9	86	7	120	1	30	0	0	30	345
Toccoa RD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	4	4	23	100	17	163	14	240	3	85	1	50	62	642